

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01256 111559Z

62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 PA-01 /061 W

----- 109576

R 111458Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

SECSTATE WASHDC 1290

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1256

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, PINT

SUBJ: CHURCH-STATE SITUATION IN ZAIRE

REF: A. ROME 1776 (NOTAL)

B. KINSHASA 769

C. KINSHASA 984

1. AS REPORTED REF B MOST RECENT CHURCH-STATE CONFRONTATION IN ZAIRE WAS SPARKED BY CATHOLIC BISHOPS' JANUARY 15 DECLARATION CHARGING ANTI-RELIGIOUS BIAS OF RECENT GOZ DECISIONS AND ANNOUNCING CHURCH'S INTENTION NOT ONLY TO WITHDRAW, AS DIRECTED, FROM DIRECT ROLE IN EDUCATION BUT TO PHASE OUT GRADUALLY FROM SOCIAL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER FORMS OF NON-PASTORAL WORK. DECLARATION ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT CHURCH UNWILLING TO ACCEPT INTEGRATION IN STATE/PARTY APPARATUS. DENOUNCING DECLARATION AS UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN STATE AFFAIRS BY A "MENTALLY ALIENATED" HIERARCHY, MOBUTU ON FEBRUARY 1 WARNED CHURCH TO STICK TO GOSPEL AND STAY OUT OF POLITICS OR FACE CHURCH CLOSURES (REF C).

2. REPOINTS RAISED REF A, EMBASSY SEES NO SIGNS OF INCIPIENT PUBLIC DISORDER ALTHOUGH TENSIONS HAVE RISEN
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 01256 111559Z

SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR. HISTORY OF INTERMITTENT SQUABBLES SUGGESTS CURRENT GOZ CHURCH POLICY IS MOBUTU'S

OWN RATHER THAN PRODUCT OF FAR EASTERN OR OTHER FOREIGN INFLUENCE. SINCE EMBASSY'S OWN ACCESS TO RANKING ZAIRIANS HAS DIMINISHED IN THIS PERIOD, IT CAN WELL BELIEVE PRO-NUNCIO'S ACCESS NIL. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT MOBUTU WOULD EXPEL PRO-NUNCIO IF PROVOKED.

3. THOUGH CHURCH PROBABLY FACES DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD, IT HAS REASONS NOT TO DESPAIR. IT STILL COUNTS NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING MPR CADRES AMONG PRACTICING FAITHFUL AND WILL NECESSARILY CONTINUE TO PLAY IMPORTANT IF SUBSIDIARY KEY ROLE IN EDUCATION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES. POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CHURCH, THOUGH RELATIVELY MUTE, IS WIDESPREAD. CHURCH HIERARCHY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. BISHOPS CONFERENCE IS NOT PARTICULARLY UNITED, AND ITS MEMBERS ARE UNLIKELY TO MAINTAIN SOLID FRONT ON ANY BUT MOST FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINAL ISSUES. MANY ARE EAGER TO MAXIMIZE COOPERATION WITH REGIME. OUTLOOK IS FOR CONTINUING ZAIRIANIZATION OF CHURCH (ONLY 14 OUT OF 53 BISHOPS ARE WHITE) AND PROBABLY FOR ATTRITION IN THE RANKS OF MISSIONARIES. RE POSSIBLE "DECHRISTIANIZATION" OF ZAIRE, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CURRENT CRISIS CONCERNS PRIMARILY CATHOLICS. THE PRESIDENT'S WARNING WAS DIRECTED SQUARELY TO CATHOLIC CLERGY, WHOSE CONDUCT MOBUTU CONTRASTED UNFAVORABLY WITH THAT OF PROTESTANTS AND KIMBANGUISTS.

4. AS EMBASSY SEES IT CHURCH, AND CHRISTIANITY ITSELF, NOT IN ANY PRESENT DANGER.
NEWLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, MEETINGS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA01256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0096
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750254/aaaabwon.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ROME 1776
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH-STATE SITUATION IN ZAIRE
TAGS: PINT, CG, (MOBUTU, SESE SEKO)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006